

Co-Management and the Importance of Local Participation in the Policy Process

A Discussion of Research Conducted in
Buen Hombre, Dominican Republic and
Bath, Barbados

Co-Management: What is It?

- a partnership arrangement in which government, the community of local resource users and external agents (NGOs, academic and research institutions), and other resource stakeholders share the responsibility and authority for the management of a resource
- covers various partnership arrangements and degrees of power sharing and integration of local (informal, traditional, customary) and centralized government systems
- partnerships are pursued, strengthened and redefined at different times in the management process, depending on the existing policy and legal environment, the political support of government for community-based initiatives, and the capacities of community organizations to become partners. (<http://www.co-management.org/>)

Why Co-management for Fisheries

- Poor Design of Regulations
- Lack of Stakeholder “buy-in”
- Low Levels of Compliance
- Ineffective Controls—example MPAs

What Role does Social Science Have in Co-management

- Provides information about local communities
- Provides information about existing notions of proprietary stewardship over resources—i.e. local control over behavior and effort
- Develops understanding of cultural and economic significance of marine resources to community—holistically examines the role of marine resource use in conjunction with other types of local activities
- Act as a bridge between formal political agencies and local communities—brings local knowledge to the policy table by providing a voice for those that are sometimes unheard—Buen Hombre

Development and MPAs: Putting People First

- Is the “West” best: top Down Development and designation of MPAs—Failures of the “Green Revolution”
- “Science” knows best—Biology and Economics over Anthropology and Sociology
- Variety of MPAs; Managements new buzz word. No-Take MPAs are best because of enforcement issues
- Michael Cernea 1988;1991 (2nd ed)
- Spill over into formal policy in MSFMA and NEPA



























Final Remarks

- Why include local people in fishery management?
- How do we bridge the gap between local knowledge and formal policy
- How do we bridge the gap between the sciences?